



Remarks

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. Claims 1-24 have been rejected. The Examiner has objected to the drawings. Applicant has amended the specification on page 5, at line 20 to overcome the objection to the drawings.

Claims 1, 3-6, 11, 14-17 and 22-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hohle. Claims 7-10, 13, and 19-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 7 and 13 have been rejected as unpatentable over Hohle in view of Article. Claims 8 and 19 have been rejected as unpatentable over Hohle in view of Teicher. Claims 9 and 20 have been rejected as unpatentable over Hohle in view of Taylor. Claims 10 and 21 have been rejected as unpatentable over Hohle in view of Chen. Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to the fact that the Examiner has not stated any specific grounds of rejection for claims 2, 12, 18 and 24.

Independent claim 1 defines a system for managing a plurality of local lists of a single user. The plurality of local lists is located at a plurality of remote appliances. Each appliance holds a corresponding local list and includes a card reader. The system comprises a compact user-carried smart card including a microprocessor and a memory storing a master list. The master list is configured for synchronizing with each local list. Specifically, the microprocessor is programmed to synchronize the master list with a local list on a remote appliance when the smart card is engaged with the remote appliance card reader to allow the user to carry the smart card with the master list stored in the smart card memory to various remote appliances and synchronize the master list with the various local lists of the appliances.

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 as anticipated by Hohle. Independent claim 1 recites each appliance holding a corresponding local list and including a card reader. Independent claim 1 further recites that the microprocessor is programmed to synchronize the master list with a local list on a remote appliance when the smart card is engaged with the remote appliance card reader. That is, the compact user-carried smart card may be carried by the user to various remote appliances and the master list may be synchronized with the various

local lists of the appliances that include card readers. It is appreciated that the local lists are at the appliances, allowing the smart card to act as a token for the user, carrying the master list to each appliance for synchronization with the local list at that appliance when the smart card is received in the card reader. Hohle fails to describe or suggest remote appliances holding corresponding local lists with each remote appliance including a card reader and a microprocessor program to synchronize the master list with a local list of a remote appliance when a smart card is engaged with the remote appliance card reader.

Hohle is directed to the more general smart card use which includes the use of a smart card for synchronizing data on the smart card with data in remote databases. That is, card readers are located in various locations, however, the remote database is not located at each card reader but rather is located at a corporate partner of the smart card provider. In the more traditional smart card system of Hohle, data on the smart card is synchronized with data in the remote database such as a database at a corporate partner. In contrast, the present invention comprehends a new use for a smart card. For the new use, each appliance holds a corresponding local list and includes a card reader and the microprocessor on the smart card is programmed to synchronize the master list with a local list on a remote appliance when the smart card is engaged with the remote appliance card reader. Applicant is claiming a new use for a smart card and points out that independent claim 1 recites that the microprocessor is programmed to synchronize the master list with a local list on a remote appliance when the smart card is engaged with the remote appliance card reader. Hohle does not describe or suggest the claimed invention of claim 1.

Applicants remaining independent claims, namely, independent claims 11 and 22, use similar language to recite that each appliance holds a corresponding local list and includes a card reader, and that the microprocessor is programmed to synchronize the master list with a local list on the remote appliance when the smart card is engaged with the remote appliance card reader. For these reasons, independent claims 11 and 22 are also believed to be patentable. Claims 2-10, 12-21 and 23-24 are dependent claims that are also believed to be patentable for reasons explained above. In addition, the remaining relied upon references fail to describe or suggest the elements of independent claims 1, 11 and 22 that are lacked by

Hohle. And lastly, Applicant points out that the Examiner has failed to specifically state grounds of rejection for dependent claims 2, 12 and 24, and Applicant believes these claims are patentable for additional reasons than those given for the independent claims.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider this application, and allow pending claims 1-24. If there is any uncertainty as to the patentability of the claimed invention, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.



Respectfully submitted,
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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, at line 17, with the paragraph shown below:

Further, it is appreciated that embodiments of the present invention are not limited to any particular types of remote appliances. The illustrated examples include a web device 22, a computer 24, a personal digital assistant 26, a cellular phone 28, a home or office phone 30, and a pay phone 32 (such as a public telephone). Smart card 12 is preferably approximately credit card size, for easy carrying by the user. In accordance with the present invention, the smart card, being compact and user-carried and having processing power and memory, is a token for holding the master list or most current data for the user's various information lists. Smart card 12 is used to synchronize with the individual lists of different applications and appliances that utilize different hardware on separated networks.

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